

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment accompanies a request for continued examination (RCE).
Claims 1-8 are pending for further examination. Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated by Ikeda et al. (U.S. Patent App. No. 2003/0142924). Claims 6-7 were rejected as unpatentable over Ikeda et al.. Claim 8 was rejected as unpatentable over Ikeda et al. in view of Brophy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,592,269).

Currently amended claim 1 recites an optical communications module that includes a rectangular chassis in which at least two of the four longest faces of the chassis are defined by dielectric wiring substrates having a metal part on their outer side. Support for this feature may be found in the specification on pg. 7, lines 4-10, and in FIG. 1(b).

As disclosed in an example in the present application, metal plates 4a, 4b, 4c and 4d are formed respectively on the rear side of individual dielectric substrates 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d. The metal plates 4a-4d in combination with a metal plate 4e function as a chassis 4 of an optical communications module 1 (*see* FIG. 1b). The metal plates formed on the rear side of the dielectric substrates can aid heat transfer away from heat generating components mounted on the wiring substrates. In some implementations, this feature can reduce the number of required components as well as cost of manufacturing given that the dielectric wiring substrates also function as outer walls of the chassis.

The Ikeda et al. patent discloses a pump light source 1 for Raman amplification that includes a fixed module 2 on which a laser diode module 12, CPU 14 and photodiode 13 are mounted. An additional module 3 includes four module cards 4, 5, 6, 7 that can be added to the fixed module 2 as required. (*see* FIG. 1, par. [0023]). The Office action asserts (pg. 3) that the module cards 4, 5, 6, 7 of the Ikeda patent collectively form the body of a communications module (pump light source 1) and therefore correspond to the claimed "chassis." Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Ikeda patent discloses that the modules 4, 5, 6, 7 are cards which may be freely attached or removed (par. [0023]). Clearly, it follows from the foregoing disclosure and FIG. 1

of the Ikeda patent that the *removable* modules 4, 5, 6, 7 do not provide structural support to the pump light source 1 or even serve as a frame of the pump light source. Accordingly, applicants assert that the modules 4, 5, 6, 7 do not, in any way, correspond to a "chassis."

Even if the modules 4, 5, 6, 7 were construed as a chassis, which is incorrect, the Ikeda patent does not disclose or suggest that "at least two of four longest side faces" of the chassis are respectively defined by a dielectric wiring substrate as further recited in present claim 2. FIGS. 1 and 2 of the Ikeda patent clearly show that the module cards 4, 5, 6, 7 extend along only a *portion* of the entire length of a longest side face of pump light source 1. Consequently, the longest side faces of pump light source 1 are not "defined" by a dielectric wiring substrate.

At least for the foregoing reasons, claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing comments, all claims are allowable and a notice of allowance should be issued.

The fee for the RCE and one month extension of time are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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